Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] Figure 2 shows an insulation manufacturing apparatus ~~100~~ 101. The apparatus is suitable for use in the fabrication of thermal and acoustical insulation products comprising, for example, mineral fibers, polymer fibers, compressible foam, and the like. The apparatus comprises two conveyor belts 10, 12, a rotary die cutting cylinder 20, and an anvil 40. The die cutting cylinder 20 and anvil 40 may be part of a die cutting system, such as a soft anvil web-fed rotary die cutter. The insulation manufacturing apparatus ~~100~~ 101 may be a stand alone apparatus capable of processing standard insulation batts 50 into batts more readily usable for band joist spaces, but preferably the insulation manufacturing apparatus ~~100~~ 101 is part of an in-line insulation manufacturing process, and is employed in the process after formation of the fibrous batt 50 and prior to the packaging process. Alternatively, the apparatus may process rolls of insulation, or continuous lanes of insulation.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] Referring to Figures 3A-~~5~~8, the rotary die cutting cylinder 20, 21, 23 preferably includes one or more (preferably two or more) slicing rules 26 (FIG. 6) or perfing rules 22 (FIG. 7), and at least one cutting rule 24 (FIG. 8). The rotary die cutting system may be of the type manufactured by CORfine of Dayton, Ohio, for example. The slicing or perfing rules 26 or ~~28~~ 22 are used to partially slice or to perforate the batt 50 (or roll or continuous lane) at desired distances so that the batt (or roll or continuous lane) can be easily separated at the areas of the slices or perforations to readily fit into band joist spaces. Herein, the term "slice" is used to indicate partially cutting through the insulation, cutting less than the complete depth of the batt, leaving some portion of the mat undisturbed across the total width of the mat . In contrast, the term "perf" is used herein to denote cutting all the way through the entire depth of the insulation, except in stepped areas, which are partially cut or not cut at all.